

German community gets deployment details

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Everyone in Baumholder, including the civilian population, has heard that soldiers will soon be deploying to Kosovo. The soldiers and their families already know who's going and who's not and everyone is making preparations for the six-month pilgrimage that's quickly approaching. Soldiers are heavily into their training, and, for the first time, family members have the opportunity to participate in a family version of a Soldier's Readiness Program to help get all their paperwork in order.

All of this, though, is happening within the confines of the installation and many civilians in the area are not privy to all the goings on within our gates. Therefore, to update German officials and the rest of the community, Baumholder recently hosted a Kosovo deployment reception where many local dignitaries and key Baumholder civilians were presented with the facts surrounding the Kosovo deployment.

Col. Gene Kamena, 2nd Brigade commander, began by explaining the Kosovo rotation process. Task Force Falcon, The Kosovo deployment's given name, is a six-month affair. "Our real mission is to provide a secure and stable environment in Kosovo so that the true peace process can take affect," explained Kamena.

To accomplish this task, soldiers must train. "We're in the middle of our training right now," said Kamena. Giving an example he said, "If you drive around post, don't be surprised if you're stopped on a corner and there's something that looks like a checkpoint. We're putting up wire and sandbags and we

have our weapons out. What this does is provide some very good training for our soldiers. It gives them practice dealing with civilians and it reinforces their techniques and their skills that they need to be successful down in Kosovo," he said. About 900 soldiers a week are on the training area. "We're in our fourth week of training," he said.

November 16 is the magic date everyone was waiting to hear. That's the day the first soldiers begin moving out of Baumholder on their way to Kosovo. The transfer of authority for Task Force Falcon is Dec. 18. At that time, Brig. Gen. Kenneth Quinlan, 1st Armored Division assistant division commander for maneuver, takes command of Task Force Falcon and 2nd Brigade soldiers will be fully in place to begin their peace keeping operations. Their return trip ticket will be good on or about June 20, 2001.

Given this schedule, the soldiers that have been down in Kosovo will miss Thanksgiving but the bulk of the soldiers from Baumholder will be able to have Thanksgiving dinner with their families. "But we know we're going to miss Christmas," said Kamena. "Our goal is to get down to Kosovo, relieve the soldiers that have been down there for six months and allow them to return to their families and have Christmas with their families here in Germany."

With all the hype surrounding the deploying force, Kamena pointed out that the soldiers remaining in Baumholder, the Rear Detachment, are as important as those that will deploy. The Rear Detachment commander for this deployment will be Lt. Col. James H. Embrey, 1-6 Infantry Battalion commander.

Kamena said that taking care of families back home is as important as the mission of the soldiers that



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Col. Gene Kamena, 2nd Brigade commander, explains details of the upcoming Kosovo deployment to a group of local German dignitaries at the Rheinlander.

deploy. If the soldier knows his family is being taken care of, he can focus all his attention on the mission at hand and be successful.

Family members remaining in Baumholder will have an abundant number of agencies to turn to for help. First off, of course, is the Rear Detachment organization that will be the link between families and the deployed soldiers. Another key organization ready to serve the families is the 222nd Base Support Battalion, who's vast range of services include everything from child care to family housing, to shipment of household goods. These are services that the 222nd BSB offers on a daily basis and will continue to do so throughout the deployment.

Also attuned to the needs of

family members during the upcoming deployment are all the teachers and administrators in Baumholder's three elementary schools and high school. Teachers are being briefed on deployment timelines and are prepared to provide students with appropriate study material during the block leave period so they do not fall behind in their studies. The schools have also started counseling sessions with the students to prepare them and help them cope with the long separation.

One unique initiative that has surfaced in preparation for the departure of soldiers is to allow for an early Christmas celebration. Baumholder's Army and Air Force Exchange Service is stepping up its marketing timeline and providing

Christmas decorations and supplies earlier than usual to allow families the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in October. So if you're one who believes the Christmas season is encroaching more and more on Thanksgiving, brace yourself because this year it is about to overrun Halloween. Don't be surprised when you visit the PX and see someone standing in line buying a Halloween costume, a cardboard turkey and Christmas lights all at once — it's only AAFES' way of supporting the needs of the community they serve.

That's the bottom line. The 2nd Brigade Rear Detachment, the 222nd BSB and its many agencies are here to support the needs of the community.

Military honors local citizens

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

German and American citizens were recently honored for their heroic actions and after 26 years of service, the city of Baumholder's top law enforcement official says good-bye.

Baumholder's departing Chief of Police, Hans Jürgen Schaadt, was recognized for all his years of support to the American military community by Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, during the recent Kosovo

deployment reception.

"Since 1974, Herr Schaadt has been a member of our community and has protected our soldiers and our families," said Wagenaar. Schaadt was recently promoted and is moving on to other duties in the German Police organization.

His certificate read in part, "Your patience and understanding of our unique needs has greatly solidified German/American relations and your assistance was highly instrumental in the successful accomplishment of the countless deployments and missions of the United States Army in Baumholder."

Together with Baumholder District Mayor, Volkmar Pees, Wagenaar also recognized the heroic actions of several German and American citizens. An American boy, Robert Ransbottom, and his mother, Stefanie Houston, were recognized for saving a German citizen from drowning in Baumholder Lake.

Pees said he was astounded that such a young boy had the strength to pull the man out of the lake.

German life guards, Günter Heinz and Bernd Staut, were honored for saving the life of an American soldier who also almost drowned in Baumholder Lake.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, presents Hans Jürgen Schaadt, Baumholder's chief of police, with a certificate of recognition for his many years of service.

Going to Kosovo? Do you need to ACAP?

Soldiers planning to transition out of the military soon after their return from Kosovo can start the Army Career and Alumni Program process before they deploy. New hours allow soldiers to attend mandatory Preseparation Briefings any morning, Mondays through Fridays. No matter how congested the pre-deployment schedule, ACAP can fit soldiers in. Once down-range, soldiers can continue working with their ACAP counselor via Internet, email, phone and fax. Whether a soldier is stationed in Baumholder, Camp Bondsteel, Camp Monteith, or Camp Able Sentry, ACAP is available to assist in planning for the future.

Soldiers that haven't decided on re-enlistment or separation can let ACAP help with the decision process. ACAP can help soldiers decide if separating from the Army is in their best interest or not by reviewing Army and VA benefits, examining the current job market, and assessing how the skills developed in the Army will transfer into civilian life. ACAP has tools to help evaluate the current job market and personal interests so that soldiers can make an informed decision about their future.

Call the ACAP Center with any questions on the Army transition process or deployment ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACAP classes

Transitioning soldiers and their family members can take advantage of the following ACAP classes scheduled for October:

Mandatory Preseparation Briefing

ACAP Preseparation Briefings are scheduled every morning at 9 a.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Job Assistance Workshop

The next one-day Job Assistance Workshop is Oct 25, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACAP also offers automated Job Assistance Workshops on their new computer system. Call to schedule an appointment any afternoon to work with ACAP's new computer-based job assistance tools.

For more information, contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

Job opportunity

ACAP is now accepting resumes for the position of ACAP Counselor at the Baumholder office. This is a contractor position for current U.S. ID cardholders. The Position requires a master's degree, two years of teaching or presentation experience and computer literacy with Microsoft Word and the Internet. For detailed information, contact Bobbi Curris at mil 485-6741.

ACS at a glance

In support of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, Army Community Services is offering an array of family advocacy classes on a personal or unit level. For a complete list of classes, dates and times, call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Sponsorship training is open to all, Oct. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the ITC classroom. For more information, call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Army Community Services and

the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children, Oct. 12 and 26. Story hours are offered from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for children through 18 months and 10:30-11:30 a.m. for children 19 months through school age. People who would like to be a guest reader may call civ 485-6252.

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 4 and 18 in the Army Community Service Lounge. The next Newcomers Coffee is Oct. 3 and 17 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

The next AFTB Level I is Training Oct. 18. Call mil 485-8542 or civ. 6-8542 for location details.

ACS Calendar

Oct. 2

Successful Parenting
Employment Orientation

Oct. 3

Stress Management Class
Newcomers Coffee

Oct. 4

Anger Management
International Spouses Club
Interviewing
Banking, Checking Accounts

Oct. 5

Child Safety

Oct. 6

Resumix Workshop

Oct. 9

Employment Orientation

Oct. 10

Stress Management
Raising Responsible Kids

Oct. 11

Conflict Resolution
RACC Quarterly Meeting
Volunteer Advisory Committee
Getting Insurance

Oct. 12

Story Hour (Library)
Couples Communication

Oct. 16

Successful Parenting
Employment Orientation

Oct. 17

Stress Management
Newcomers Coffee
Step Family Relationships

Post Notes

Oct. 18

Anger Management
International Spouses Club
Family Readiness Group Training
AFTB Level I Training
Principles of Personal Finance
Finding the Best Job For You

Oct. 19

Child Safety,
Sponsorship Training
Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Prevention

Oct. 20

Resumix Workshop
For information about classes or services offered, call mil 485-8188, or civ (06783)6-8188.

Education update

In view of proposed legislation going through Congress, soldiers with a zero balance in their VEAP accounts are encouraged to reopen their suspended account. A minimum of \$25 is recommended to reactivate the account. Army Regulation 621-202 is the authority to reopen a suspended VEAP account.

Soldiers can now view and print unofficial copies of their Army transcripts on line at: <https://aartstranscript.levenworth.army.mil>

The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University Representative from Ramstein AB will visit the Baumholder Army Education Center on a monthly basis. The next visit is Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Central Texas College has the following openings at the Baumholder Education Center: Academic Instructor (tutor), evening hours, a bachelor of arts or science is required; FAST Instructor, daytime classes, a bachelor of arts or science is required; Army Learning Center Operator (substitute), day/evening hours. Call Lonnie Allen at mil 485-6484 for more information.

The University of Oklahoma and Cameron University Representative from Ramstein Air Base will visit the Baumholder Army Education Cen-

ter on a monthly basis. The next visit is Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Army Learning Center in Building 8108 is now open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Friday hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is closed daily from 1-2 p.m. for lunch. Visit the Army Learning Center for CLEP, GED, SAT, ACT, AFCT, and MOS study material. Your Army Learning Center also has on-line bookshelves for the latest Army Regulations, Pamphlets and more. Call mil 485-6484 for more information. Computer access is available Mondays through Thursdays until 9:45 p.m.

Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein, Neubrücke Commissaries will be closed Oct. 9 in observance of Columbus Day. The Baumholder Neubrücke Commissaries will reopen Oct. 10 and the Idar-Oberstein Commissary will reopen Oct. 11. For more information, call the Baumholder Commissary at mil 485-6666.

Baumholder's Commissary now offers an Early Bird Bakery Sale Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 – 10 a.m. that includes fresh baked pastries and an American doughnut with free coffee.

Book signing

Teresa Allen, author of the book "Mamma Said Get In The House," conducts a book-signing at Baumholder's Bookmark Oct. 7. Allen is a black Christian inspirational writer who resides in the Baumholder area. For more information, call mil 485-6521.

Youth get ballet, jazz

Child Youth Services now offers ballet and jazz classes on Tuesdays from 1:30 – 7:30 p.m. or Thursdays from 2:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Neubrücke CYS. Classes are for ages 3 to adult and participants will be placed by age and experience.

The cost is \$30 for a half-hour session for eight weeks, or \$60 for an hour session for eight weeks. For more information, call CYS at 485-7003.

Soccer club looking for youth players

The local soccer club is offering young German and American soccer players the opportunity to play in their youth teams this coming season. The VfR Baumholder soccer club features outdoor as well as indoor soccer. Practice and games are conducted at the local soccer field near Baumholder Lake.

Youth teams are grouped by age and girls and boys can play in mixed teams up to age 12.

Practice for the Bambini Team, children born in 1993 through 1995, is every Friday from 4 – 5 p.m. Jörg

Axmann is their coach.

Manuela and Herbert Heidrich coach the F-Youth Team, children born in 1992, every Wednesday from 4:30 – 6 p.m.

The E-Youth Team, children born in 1990 through 1991, is coached by Thomas Wetterauer and Rainer Thomas. They practice every Tuesday from 5 – 6:15 p.m.

Children born in 1988 through 1989 can play in the D-Youth team. Practice is Tuesdays from 3 – 4:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 4 – 5 p.m. Their coach is Dieter Heinz.

The C-Youth Team, boys born in 1986 through 1987, is coached by Hans-Joachim Grüner. Practice hours are Mondays from 4:30 – 6 p.m. and Thursdays from 5 – 6:15 p.m.

The B and A Youth Teams, boys born in 1984 through 1985 and 1982 through 1983, practice on Mondays from 6:30 – 8 p.m. and Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8 p.m. The coach is Hans-Günter Schinkel.

Children can show up at the practice or call the youth coordinator, Tino Hebel, at civ (06783) 1210.

Families prepare for deployment in one stop

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

As Baumholder's soldiers train for the upcoming Kosovo mission, so too must their spouses prepare for the deployment. To aid spouses with this process, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Family Pre-Deployment Processing (FPDP) is providing spouses with a one-stop way to get their personal affairs in order prior to the deployment.

"The purpose of this whole thing is to prepare spouses for deployment," explains 2nd Brigade Family Support Liaison Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Delong.

Indeed, its purpose is simple...to ensure that spouses have all the current documents and correct information needed in order to take care of themselves and their families while the soldiers are deployed downrange.

Its benefits are many...including providing spouses with the information and knowledge necessary to deal with any situations that may arise. "You know we're going to have emergencies and all kinds of problems," Family Support Liaison Sgt. Warren Usher of 4-27 Field Artillery points out. "If you have all the proper paperwork, this makes the job a lot easier," he adds.

FPDP, which spanned two

weeks in August and September and will be held for the last time in November, includes representatives from all over Baumholder ready to provide information and assistance. Groups represented include Army Community Services/Child Youth Services, Army Family Team Building, the Red Cross, the United Services Organization, the Chaplain, Housing, 90th Personnel Support Battalion, 8th Finance, Banking Services, Vehicle Registration, the Medical Clinic and Tricare, Educational Developmental Intervention Services, the Legal Office, and the Family Support Liaisons.

With separate stations set up for each organization, spouses can proceed from one table to the next checking off items as they go on the checklist provided to them. Thus, each organization is able to provide spouses with the information applicable to their personal circumstances on an individual basis. This allows spouses to spend as much time as necessary at each station to get their questions answered and their needs met...whether that means taking the time to draw up legal powers of attorney, having their deployment entitlements explained, or learning the procedures for leaving housing for an extended time.

It's a set-up that seems to meet with a good response, as Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Hatley, Family Sup-



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

1st Lt. Eric Dennis of Headquarters Company 2-6 Infantry and his wife Angela go through Family Pre-Deployment Processing.

port Liaison for 1-6 Infantry, explains, "The spouses tell you how they feel...and I'm getting positive feedback from the spouses."

However, with attendance at the non-mandatory processing lagging behind expectations, 2-6 Infantry Family Support Liaison Staff Sgt. Alexander Welch stresses the need for unit involvement in promoting good participation. "The units need

to get more involved in ensuring that the spouses are here," he emphasizes. "They need to explain at the unit level the importance of this processing."

Families wanting to take advantage of FPDP have one more chance to do so, when another such processing will be held 14-17 November from 4 to 8 p.m. each evening at Army Community Services. And

while FPDP may not be mandatory, it certainly is to the benefit of all—from unit to soldier to spouse—to attend. As 1st Lt. Eric Dennis of Headquarters Company 2-6 Infantry and his wife Angela agree, "Everyone should definitely do it. Even if you're familiar with the process, there are things that definitely come up. And families should do it together."

Financial aid available to community

The Baumholder Community Service Club is now accepting applications for monetary assistance from Baumholder community organizations. The club had great support from the community last year and was able to disburse more than \$23,000 to various organizations in the Baumholder community.

Applications are reviewed and funds are distributed twice yearly. Presently, applications are being accepted through Oct. 17 for disbursement in November.

Members of the BCSC Welfare committee will review applications and supporting documentation. Emphasis will be placed on learning how each organization has tried to

obtain funds, such as through group fund raising. Consideration is also given to the donation's impact on the Baumholder community.

In past years, donations have been made to organizations such as scout troops, elementary enrichment programs, sports teams, American Red Cross, Army Community Services, Child Development Services, the DARE program, and the health and dental clinics.

For more information or an application, contact Tracey Rafferty at civ06783-186343 or write to her C/O BCSC Welfare Committee, HNB DIVARTY 1AD, Unit #23705 Box 152, APO, AE 09034.

VFW scholarships up for grabs again

Students in Baumholder have the opportunity to compete in the 54th annual Voice of Democracy Scholarship Contest and win valuable scholarships and awards.

The contest is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and it's currently under way. According to Samuel C. Tooson, Local VFW Post

2566 commander, the students achieve much more when they participate in "Voice of Democracy."

The deadline for student entry is Nov. 1. Up for grabs are a total of \$139,500 in national scholarships that will be awarded to student national finalists. Interested students should get details from their teachers.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Giving much more than her time

Red Cross volunteer Barbara Madorma prepares to give much more than her time as Sgt. Kimberly Krout of the USAREUR Blood Donor Center preps her for a blood donation at a recent Red Cross Blood Drive on Baumholder.

1-94 Field Artillery comes to life at Strassburg

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The skies over Strassburg Kaserne were exceptionally clear Sept. 15 as German and American dignitaries settled in their seats under shady canopies to witness the induction of the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery into the ranks of the 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery. The guests listened politely as Col. Daniel Nolan III, Division Artillery commander, addressed them and the five batteries of soldiers assembled on the grassy field next to Rudy's on Strassburg Kaserne.

The occasion marked the official activation of 1-94 FA and placed the battalion one step closer to full integration into America's tank division.

"Not only has the leadership of the battalion created this excellent organization, they moved it from Baumholder out here to Idar-Oberstein - no easy task in itself. Their impact in the community is evident. The Division Artillery is proud to be able to continue the U.S. Army's presence in this great community. I know that you sometimes feel isolated out here, but I want you to know that you and your families are never far from our thoughts," said Nolan.

The day's ceremony was mostly a symbolic gesture because, according to Nolan, "This battalion is already on the road to success. Their crews are certified and we are moving smartly into platoon and battery certification, which will culminate next February with the battalion external evaluation and certification during Rolling Steel 2001." Rolling Steel is the annual DIVARTY exercise that mobilizes

most of the its assets out into the German countryside for realistic training and as Nolan noted, for unit certification.

During the months, weeks and days leading up to the day's ceremony, "Our objective was focused on equipping the man, not manning the equipment," said Nolan. "We invested heavily in putting the leadership in place early and activating the battalion, provisionally, 90 days ahead of schedule."

Alluding to the many tasking that have come down the pike for the unit, Nolan said, "If the unit's numerical designation, 1-94, had not had such a historic significance, I would have been tempted to number this battalion 911. I've called on them time and again to pick up critical national and training missions, and they've never missed a beat.

"I gave them the responsibility for the salute battery and they were magnificent. I dragged the leadership to Warfighter to replace a DIVARTY staff decimated by support of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. Delta 1-94, the target acquisition battery, has supported numerous training events and is currently committed against a national contingency mission."

"Even as I continue to send them fire missions, they've never been a moment when they've flinched. Despite the crushing load of just standing up the battalion, they've executed each of these missions flawlessly. This is a testament to the adaptability of the leaders and the dedication of the soldiers.

"Artillery is, of course, the argument of kings and this is the battalion you want on your side in a debate. The 1st Battalion, 94 Artillery represents not merely a doubling of the division surface to surface fire power, but the means by



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Soldiers from the newly activated 1-94 Field Artillery Battalion uncasing the unit's colors during the official activation ceremony.

which we would compel an adversary to see the wisdom of our will."

Lt. Col. Walter R. Cheshire, a veteran field artillery officer that was previously assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery in Baumholder, will lead the battalion through its formative years.

"What a day. The 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery rocket radar battalion has been activated," proclaimed Cheshire. "The Division, the DIVARTY, and this battalion have waited in anticipation of this milestone to mark a commencement of our further integration into America's tank division," he said.

"The 94th Artillery has a proud and colorful background and the 1st Battalion looks forward to continuing that tradition," he said.

Just like Army philosophy stresses the need to function as a team, Cheshire stressed that this event represented significant effort on the part of many people.

He first noted the efforts of the leadership of the division. "With great resolve, our commanding general has placed emphasis on the activation of this battalion and the division staff has followed suit," he said.

Taking aim closer to home, Cheshire said, "The Division Artillery commander and staff assumed significant risk and made great sacrifices in order to make this unit successful and strong."

The third leg of his attribution for the successful activation of the unit went to the Baumholder com-

munity and the 222nd Base Support Battalion, who, according to Cheshire, gave "Outstanding support to ensure that 1-94 received a priority in allocation of precious resources."

The final complement went to the backbone of the unit, the iron soldiers and their families. "Having been summoned locally and from around the world, to come together and make this a great combat team, these folks are here, standing ready to be certified as a combat capable asset for the division.

"The battalion has yet a road to travel, which will lead to combat certification and integrate them into the division, and today we stand ready to meet the challenge," he said.

Talking to winners

Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, 1st Armored Division commander, stopped by recently to talk to and present awards to soldiers from the 1-6th Infantry Battalion that recently completed a Pre-Ranger Course, and EIB course. He also presented awards to two crews for scoring a perfect 10 at gunnery. The unit also won the Commanding General's Award for Excellence for the second consecutive year.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Send greetings home

The Army and Air Force Hometown News Center comes to Baumholder Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to record holiday greetings by soldiers and families for airing over local television networks in the United States. The team prepares the recordings and mails them to television networks in the viewing area of the family members back home. Recording sessions will be held next to the entrance to the Post Exchange.

Each year, the Army and Air Force Hometown News Center makes such visits to installa-

tions overseas and records messages by Soldiers and family members who will be spending their holidays overseas. Individuals or families can sign up to record a video greeting to be aired back home. If the military member is deployed, family members may record greetings without their sponsor.

The sponsor must be in his or her duty uniform. Recordings can be done on a walk-in basis but it's better to sign up for a time slot by calling the 222nd Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600, or civ (06783) 6-1600.